



Attorney Docket: Bookbinder 16-6-1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor: Bookbinder et al.

Serial No: 09/447,077

Filing Date: 11/22/99

Title: METHODS FOR PROTECTING  
SILICA-CONTAINING  
ARTICLE AND INHIBITING  
BREAKS DURING DRAWING  
OF OPTICAL FIBER, AND  
SILICA-CONTAINING  
ARTICLE PROTECTED  
AGAINST BREAK-INDUCING  
PARTICULATES

Group Art Unit: 1762

Examiner: W. Markham

REPLY

#14/B  
J. Markham  
11/29/03  
(N)

RECEIVED  
DEC 05 2002  
TC 1700

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

RESPONSE TO THE EXAMINER'S FINAL OFFICE ACTION

In reply to the Office Action dated September 26, 2002, designated as Paper No.12 in the above-captioned application, please enter the following amendments and Remarks as follows:

In the Claims

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

(Twice Amended) 1. A method of protecting a silica-containing article used in the manufacture of an optical fiber, the method comprising the steps of:  
providing a silica-containing article used in the manufacture of an optical fiber;  
applying a protective organic layer to the silica-containing article;  
removing, by cleaning, particulates from the protective layer; and  
ablating by heating the protective layer during subsequent processing of the silica-containing article.